



The Big Bend Natural History Association is a non-profit organization established to support the park's educational and scientific programs. BBNHA also publishes and distributes books, maps, guides, newspapers and other materials designed to enhance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Big Bend National Park.

You've heard of the perfect storm, a coincidental combination of climatic conditions than results in a rare and dangerous large-scale storm, but we seem to make much less of a more common phenomenon, perfect weather. While we have our share of perfect weather in Big Bend National Park, we're also currently experiencing another delightful phenomenon: perfect cooperation.

Under Superintendent John King, the man who brought the rain back to Big Bend, we've made great progress toward a coherent strategy to secure much-needed assistance for the park we love. In the past

year, we've formed a partnership council that meets quarterly to discuss ways in which the park's partners can combine and enhance their efforts to help the park. Members of the council are Big Bend Natural History Association, Forever Resorts, Friends of Big Bend National Park, the San Vicente Independent School District, and the National Park Service. Our meetings are already showing positive results, and recently BBNHA and FBBNP met with Superintendent King to discuss a fundraising strategy for the park. With their new executive director onboard, FBBNP will take the lead in fundraising and friend-raising and BBNHA will provide administrative support

for those efforts. The NPS is also working on phase two of the Business Plan Initiative, with talented graduate students Alex McIntosh of Yale and Jennifer Bollen of Emory working hard to help the park focus their efforts, increase efficiency, and make the most of tightening federal budgets.

Speaking for all the members of the partnership council, I'd like to thank you for your support of Big Bend National Park and encourage you to support the partners that support your park.

Mike Boren
Mike Boren, Executive Director

Seminars

Spend some quality time with an expert on Big Bend birds, tracks, black bears, dinosaurs, geology, and much more with our Natural History Seminars Program. Now in its 16th year, the immensely popular program sponsored by BBNHA continues to grow and improve.

There are still slots available for the fall sessions. Sign up today!

Fall 2004 Seminar Schedule

August 12-15	First Annual Big Bend Nature Festival
Sept. 25-26 <i>Mark Adams</i>	Birding in Big Bend
October 10 <i>Sam Richardson</i>	Lodge and Learn: Big Bend History
October 16 <i>Carl Frisch</i>	Big Bend Star Party
October 30 <i>Patricia Manning</i>	Landscaping with Native Plants
October 31 <i>Don Corrick</i>	When Dinosaurs Ruled
November 14 <i>Robert Haynes</i>	Tracking in the Desert
November 20 <i>Bill Bourbon</i>	Geology Jeep Tour
November 21 <i>Raymond Skiles</i>	Black Bear Recovery
December 5 <i>Bob Hext</i>	Rock Art in Big Bend

Average cost for a seminar is \$50 per day with most seminars running 1-2 days. Class size is limited to 15 participants to ensure individualized instruction. Seminar participants may also take advantage of free camping in one of Big Bend's group campgrounds.

To register for a seminar or to receive a complete catalog, contact us at PO Box 196, Big Bend National Park, TX, 79834 or call 432-477-2236. You may also e-mail us at bibe_bbnha@nps.gov



Featured Publications

Have a hunger for the desert? Take a bite out of our great selection of books and publications. Our bookstores offer a wealth of books, maps, checklists, and field guides carefully selected to help you enjoy your visit to Big Bend National Park.

Stop by any visitor center, or order these online at bigbendbookstore.org

Big Bend Adventure Guide

Children who have completed the Junior Ranger program will find the Big Bend Adventure Guide of interest! An educational tool and a hedge against boredom, this 29-page black-and-white book is crammed with puzzles, games, and information about Big Bend. \$2.00.



The Story of Big Bend National Park

A comprehensive, highly readable history of the park from before its founding in 1944 up to the present. Topics range from a fascinating look at the mighty efforts involved in persuading Washington officials and local landowners that such a park was needed to how the park was publicized and developed for visitors. Current issues such as natural resource management, predator protection in the park, and challenges to land, water, and air. 196 pages. \$13.95



For All Seasons

A Big Bend Journal



Ro Wauer worked as Chief Park Naturalist from 1966 to 1972 and has visited the park frequently ever since. His journal entries span these thirty years, providing not only a composite portrait of a typical year but also a clear sense of how the park's natural history has changed over three decades. He spices his account with anecdotes, ranging from stumbling across a herd of javelinas to being trailed by a mountain lion in the dark to discovering new species of plants and animals. 208 pages. \$19.95.

National Park Ranger

An American Icon



In this celebration of one of America's most enduring symbols, former ranger Butch Farabee briefly reviews the evolution of this national symbol. Packed with entertaining anecdotes and illustrated with over 100 archival photographs, this book not only provides fascinating insight into the diversity of roles a park ranger must play, but also honors the unique people dedicated to guarding and maintaining this country's irreplaceable treasures. 180 pages. \$18.95